

## CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5       1. A sewable snap fastener constructed of resilient  
6 material for receiving stitches from a sewing process where  
7 a needle in the sewing process penetrates portions the  
8 sewable snap fastener, the sewable snap fastener provided  
9 for detachably fastening together two opposing pieces of  
10 material, the sewable snap fastener comprising:

11        a socket member adapted for sewed attachment to a first  
12 piece of material, said socket member comprising a socket  
13 portion defining a receiving cavity and a cavity lip leading  
14 into the receiving cavity, said socket member further  
15 comprising an integrally formed socket flange that extends  
16 outward from the socket portion to define a sewing region  
17 having a surface provided to receive stitches for stitching  
18 the socket member to the first piece of material, and a back  
19 surface disposed adjacent the first piece of material,  
20 wherein the stitch penetrations through the sewing region of  
21 the socket flange are produced from the sewing process;

22 an opposing stud member adapted for sewed attachment to  
23 a second piece of material, said stud member comprising a  
24 stud portion defining a projecting outer lip configured for  
25 engagement with the socket portion of the socket member so  
26 that the first and second pieces of material can be

1 detachably joined, said stud member further comprising an  
2 integrally formed stud flange that extends outward from the  
3 stud portion to define a sewing region having a surface  
4 provided to receive stitches for stitching the stud member  
5 to the second piece of material, and a back surface disposed  
6 adjacent the second piece of material, wherein the stitch  
7 penetrations through the sewing region of the stud flange  
8 are produced from the sewing process; and

9 channeling means for reducing the build up of unwanted  
10 debris within the sewable snap fastener.

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12 2. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 1  
13 wherein the channeling means comprises a passage that  
14 extends from the projecting outer lip, through the stud  
15 portion of the stud member, to the back surface of the stud  
16 member to allow debris to be channeled between the back  
17 surface of the stud member and the second piece of material.

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19 3. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 1  
20 wherein the channeling means comprises a receiving cavity  
21 that extends from the cavity lip, through the socket portion  
22 of the socket member to the back surface of the socket  
23 member to allow debris to be channeled between the back  
24 surface of the socket member and the first piece of  
25 material.

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1       4. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 1  
2 wherein the stud portion of the stud member further  
3 comprises a compression slot transversely formed through a  
4 portion of the outer lip.

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6       5. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 4  
7 wherein the channeling means comprises a passage that  
8 extends from the compression slot, through the stud portion  
9 of the stud member, to the back surface of the stud member  
10 to allow debris to be channeled between the back surface of  
11 the stud member and the second piece of material.

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13       6. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 5  
14 wherein the channeling means comprises a receiving cavity  
15 that extends from the cavity lip, through the socket portion  
16 of the socket member to the back surface of the socket  
17 member to allow debris to be channeled between the back  
18 surface of the socket member and the first piece of  
19 material.

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21       7. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 1  
22 wherein the cavity lip is formed by a counter bore that  
23 extends through the socket portion from the back surface of  
24 the socket flange.

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1       8. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 1  
2       wherein the socket flange extends outward from the socket  
3       portion to define a sewing region having a surface provided  
4       to receive stitches arranged in a vertical pattern so that  
5       the stitches will not obstruct debris from dropping away  
6       from the snap fastener between the back surface thereof and  
7       the material.

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9       9. A method of making a sewable snap fastener  
10      constructed of resilient material for receiving stitches  
11      from a sewing process where a needle in the sewing process  
12      penetrates portions the sewable snap fastener, the sewable  
13      snap fastener provided for detachably fastening together two  
14      opposing pieces of material, the method comprising the  
15      steps:

16       forming a socket member adapted for sewed attachment to  
17      a first piece of material, said socket member comprising a  
18      socket portion defining a receiving cavity and a cavity lip  
19      leading into the receiving cavity, said socket member  
20      further comprising an integrally formed socket flange that  
21      extends outward from the socket portion to define a sewing  
22      region having a surface provided to receive stitches for  
23      stitching the socket member to the first piece of material,  
24      and a back surface disposed adjacent the first piece of  
25      material, wherein the stitch penetrations through the sewing  
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1 region of the socket flange are produced from the sewing  
2 process;

3 forming an opposing stud member adapted for sewed  
4 attachment to a second piece of material, said stud member  
5 comprising a stud portion defining a projecting outer lip  
6 configured for engagement with the socket portion of the  
7 socket member so that the first and second pieces of  
8 material can be detachably joined, said stud member further  
9 comprising an integrally formed stud flange that extends  
10 outward from the stud portion to define a sewing region  
11 having a surface provided to receive stitches for stitching  
12 the stud member to the second piece of material, and a back  
13 surface disposed adjacent the second piece of material,  
14 wherein the stitch penetrations through the sewing region of  
15 the stud flange are produced from the sewing process; and

16 providing channeling means for reducing the build up of  
17 unwanted debris within the sewable snap fastener.

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19 10. A method of making a sewable snap fastener as  
20 recited in claim 9 wherein the channeling means comprises a  
21 passage formed to extend from the projecting outer lip,  
22 through the stud portion of the stud member, to the back  
23 surface of the stud member to allow debris to be channeled  
24 between the back surface of the stud member and the second  
25 piece of material.

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1       11. A method of making a sewable snap fastener as  
2 recited in claim 9 wherein the channeling means comprises a  
3 receiving cavity formed to extend from the cavity lip,  
4 through the socket portion of the socket member to the back  
5 surface of the socket member to allow debris to be channeled  
6 between the back surface of the socket member and the first  
7 piece of material.

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9       12. A method of making a sewable snap fastener as  
10 recited in claim 9 further comprising the step of forming a  
11 compression slot transversely through a portion of the outer  
12 lip.

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14       13. A method of making a sewable snap fastener as  
15 recited in claim 12 wherein the channeling means comprises a  
16 passage that extends from the compression slot, through the  
17 stud portion of the stud member, to the back surface of the  
18 stud member to allow debris to be channeled between the back  
19 surface of the stud member and the second piece of material.

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21       14. A method of making a sewable snap fastener as  
22 recited in claim 13 wherein the channeling means comprises a  
23 receiving cavity that extends from the cavity lip, through  
24 the socket portion of the socket member to the back surface  
25 of the socket member to allow debris to be channeled between

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1 the back surface of the socket member and the first piece of  
2 material.

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4 15. A method of making a sewable snap fastener as  
5 recited in claim 9 further comprising the step of forming a  
6 counter bore that extends partially through the socket  
7 portion from the back surface of the socket flange.

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9 16. A method of making a sewable snap fastener as  
10 recited in claim 9 further comprising the step of extending  
11 the socket flange outward from the socket portion to define  
12 a sewing region having a surface provided to receive  
13 stitches arranged in a vertical pattern so that the stitches  
14 will not obstruct debris from dropping away from the snap  
15 fastener between the back surface thereof and the material.

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17 17. A sewable snap fastener constructed of resilient  
18 material for receiving stitches from a sewing process where  
19 a needle in the sewing process penetrates portions the  
20 sewable snap fastener, the sewable snap fastener provided  
21 for detachably fastening together two opposing pieces of  
22 material, the sewable snap fastener comprising:

23 a socket member adapted for sewed attachment to a first  
24 piece of material, said socket member comprising a socket  
25 portion defining a receiving cavity and a cavity lip leading  
26 into the receiving cavity;

1       an opposing stud member adapted for sewed attachment to  
2 a second piece of material, said stud member comprising a  
3 stud portion defining a projecting outer lip configured for  
4 engagement with the socket portion of the socket member so  
5 that the first and second pieces of material can be  
6 detachably joined;

7       wherein the socket member further comprises an  
8 integrally formed socket flange that extends outward from  
9 the socket portion to define a sewing region provided to  
10 receive stitches for stitching the socket member to the  
11 first piece of material, wherein the stitch penetrations  
12 through the sewing region of the socket flange are produced  
13 from the sewing process; and

14       wherein the stud member further comprises an integrally  
15 formed stud flange that extends outward from the stud  
16 portion to define a sewing region having a provided to  
17 receive stitches for stitching the stud member to the second  
18 piece of material wherein the stitch penetrations through  
19 the sewing region of the stud flange are produced from the  
20 sewing process.

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22       18. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 17  
23 wherein the stud member and the socket member are each  
24 monolithically formed integrally of resilient material.

1       19. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 17  
2 wherein the stud member further comprises a passage through  
3 the stud portion so that the material stitched to the stud  
4 member is in communication with the receiving cavity of the  
5 socket member.

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7       20. A sewable snap fastener as recited in claim 17  
8 wherein the stud portion further comprises a compression  
9 slot disposed transversely to the plane defined by the outer  
10 lip.

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